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LB 499, 998, 999

with changes in the federal regulations. They deal with, basically, making sure that driving a commercial vehicle, that you comply with federal regulations. If you do have a commercial driver's license and you are picked up, you do have to comply with the federal regulations. That's part of the update and, really, we had no opposition. We had unanimous vote out of committee with this annual update, and there really isn't any...anything more that I know of to tell you about it other than that. LB 999, which is the other part of this amendment, pertains to compliance with some changes in the federal law pertaining to the crossing of railroad tracks. And what this bill says, and we had a committee amendment which just very slightly changed it to satisfy some wording concerns, was to provide that an employer shall not knowingly allow a person operating a commercial motor vehicle to violate local or state law or federal regulation pertaining to railroad, highway rail grades crossings, and to explain this, maybe it's easiest to give an example. If I...if I have a company that has commercial vehicles and it's the type of company that hauls hazardous materials, gasoline, so forth, and I...and I tell my employees or I allow them knowingly to cross tracks or grade separations without stopping when, in fact, the law is that that kind of vehicle that's placarded and labeled must stop at all rail crossings, if I do that intentionally, then I...then I am out of compliance and I can be subjected to a civil penalty imposed by the superintendent of law enforcement if I'm an interstate carrier. This is part of...we did this as a separate bill, but it is to comply with federal regulations in this regard. Again, we...we didn't have any opposition to the bill. There was a small amount of question I think raised by the Nebraska Cooperative Council, but we had a committee amendment which clarified the bill which they were happy with. And so to my knowledge, both LB 998 and LB 999 are simply in response to new federal regulations pertaining to commercial drivers' licenses and I know of no significant impact other than to bring us into compliance with the federal regulations. So, again, I'd be glad to try to answer questions. Senator Erdman, I appreciate your at least allowing us to propose this amendment to LB 499. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the amendment. Senator Bromm,